



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL
Washington, D.C. 20250



July 31, 2019

Ms. Emma Best
MuckRock News
DEPT MR 74143
411A Highland Ave
Somerville, Massachusetts 02144-2516

Subject: Log No. 19-00059

Dear Ms. Best:

This letter responds to your May 28, 2019, Freedom of Information Act (FOIA)¹ request to the Departmental FOIA Office (DFO) at the Department of Agriculture (USDA). On June 7, 2019, the DFO referred your request USDA's Office of Inspector General (OIG) for processing and direct response to you. You requested copies of any documents referencing, discussing or generated as a result of referrals to and consultations with the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and other components of the Department of Justice (Criminal Division, Civil Division, National Security Division, the Attorney General's office, etc.) regarding instances of unauthorized disclosures (i.e., leaks) of information for investigation and/or prosecution between January 20, 1981, and the present.

We conducted a search of OIG records based upon the information provided and found no records that are responsive to your request.

You have the right to appeal the decision by OIG to withhold information by writing to the Inspector General, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 1400 Independence Avenue SW., Whitten Building, Suite 441-E, Washington, D.C. 20250-2308. Your appeal must be received within 90 days of the date of this letter. The outside of the envelope should be clearly marked "FOIA APPEAL."

For your information, Congress excluded three discrete categories of law enforcement and national security records from the requirements of the FOIA. *See* 5 U.S.C. 552(c) (2006 & Supp. IV 2010). This response is limited to those records that are subject to the requirements of the FOIA. This is a standard notification that is given to all our requesters and should not be taken as an indication that excluded records do, or do not, exist.

¹ 5 U.S.C. § 552.

Ms. Emma Best

Page 2

You have the right to seek the assistance of the OIG FOIA Public Liaison. You can also seek dispute resolution services from the OIG FOIA Public Liaison or the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS).

As part of the 2007 FOIA amendments, OGIS was created to offer mediation services to resolve disputes between FOIA requesters and Federal agencies as a non-exclusive alternative to litigation. Using OGIS' services does not affect your right to pursue litigation. If you are requesting access to your own records (which is considered a Privacy Act request), you should know that OGIS does not have the authority to handle requests made under the Privacy Act of 1974.

You may contact OGIS in any of the following ways:

Office of Government Information Services
National Archives and Records Administration
{OGIS} 8601 Adelphi Road
College Park, MD 20740-6001
Phone: (202) 741-5770
Fax: (202) 741-5769
Toll-free: 1-877-684-6448
E-mail: ogis@nara.gov
Web: <https://ogis.archives.gov>

For information about OIG, please refer to our Web site at www.oig.usda.gov. Should you have any questions or need additional information, please feel free to contact our office at (202) 720-5677.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Alison Decker", with a stylized, flowing script.

Alison Decker
Assistant Counsel